Chapel Hill, Oct. 14, 1856

Dear Sir,

I am glad that the executive committee did not yield to a popular clamor and remove me from my situation here. I am relieved that if I can have a full and fair hearing before the trustees, the charges can be placed in the resolutions which you promise will be printed to be more than my officers merited, this or nothing now stand it was as little as I could expect.

No one more than myself acknowledges the justice and propriety of the usage which forbids members of the faculty from agitating topics relating to party politics. But there are instances when it seems to me the usage may be desirable and is. In fact about eight years ago one of the ablest and most learned professors in the university thought it incumbent on his position to declare his judgment on the slavery question. But the principle announced of which I wrote earlier in this letter of this breach of a well-known usage in the manner in which I was attacked. If members of the faculty have their hands tied they shall be shielded from assault. I am a citizen of this State, a native of this city and in that capacity have always endeavored to be a faithful law abiding member of the community. But all at once I am assailed as an outlaw, a traitor, as a person fit to be driven from the state by mob violence, one whom every good citizen was bound to cast out by fair means or foul. This was more than